

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An AV apparatus designed to control
apparatuses and having a plurality of connection
terminals to which the apparatuses can be selectively
5 connected wherein identifiers are allocated to
the connection terminals, respectively, each for
designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that
the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals
are controlled in a priority order.
- 10 2. The AV apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
each identifier is characters or a symbol that
indicates a model number or type of the apparatus,
and any apparatus designated by the identifier is
controlled prior to any other apparatuses.
- 15 3. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same
connection terminal, one of the at least two
apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier
allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior
20 to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which
is not designated by the identifier.
- 25 4. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same
connection terminal and designated by the identifier
allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at
least two apparatuses directly connected to the
connection terminal is selected prior to the any other

of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

5 5. The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier
is connected to an connection terminal to which the
specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus
designated by the specific identifier is connected to
an connection terminal to which the specific identifier
is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which
10 an identifier different from the specific identifier is
allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection
terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated
is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the
connection terminal to which the specific identifier is
15 not allocated or to the connection terminal to which
an identifier different from the specific identifier is
allocated.

20 6. The AV apparatus according to any one of
claims 1 to 5, wherein the connection terminals are
serial bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394
standards.

25 7. A method of controlling an AV apparatus having
a plurality of connection terminals to which a
plurality of apparatuses can be connected, thereby to
control the apparatuses connected to the connection
terminals, wherein identifiers are allocated to the
connection terminals, respectively, each for

designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order.

5 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein each identifier is characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

10 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which
15 is not designated by the identifier.

20 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

25 11. The method according to claim 8, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus

designated by the specific identifier is connected to
an connection terminal to which the specific identifier
is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which
an identifier different from the specific identifier is
5 allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection
terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated
is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the
connection terminal to which the specific identifier is
not allocated or to the connection terminal to which
10 an identifier different from the specific identifier is
allocated.

12. The method according to any one of claims 7
to 11, wherein the connection terminals are serial
bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.

13. An AV-apparatus network system comprising a
15 plurality of AV apparatuses and a control apparatus
having a plurality of connection terminals to which the
AV apparatus can be connected, wherein identifiers are
allocated to the connection terminals, respectively,
20 each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses
so that the apparatuses connected to the connection
terminals are controlled in a priority order.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein each
25 identifier is characters or a symbol that indicates
a model number or type of the apparatus, and any
apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled
prior to any other apparatuses.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein
when at least two apparatuses are connected to the
same connection terminal, one of the at least two
apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier
5 allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior
to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which
is not designated by the identifier.

16. The system according to claim 14, when at
least two apparatuses are connected to the same
10 connection terminal and designated by the identifier
allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at
least two apparatuses directly connected to the
connection terminal is selected prior to the any other
of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly
15 connected to the connection terminal.

17. The system according to claim 14, wherein when
an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is
connected to an connection terminal to which the
specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus
20 designated by the specific identifier is connected to
an connection terminal to which the specific identifier
is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which
an identifier different from the specific identifier is
allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection
25 terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated
is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the
connection terminal to which the specific identifier is

not allocated or to the connection terminal to which
an identifier different from the specific identifier is
allocated.

18. The system according to any one of claims 13
5 to 17, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus
terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.